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2-13-96 DN Test developed at Western IDs risks for older drivers

By DANIEL Q. HANEY

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A new test that measures the amount of information retained in a brief glimpse can help predict which elderly drivers are more likely to have car accidents.

The test, which works like a computer game, reveals which drivers can quickly sort out confusing situations, just as good drivers must do.

Old drivers are second only to young males in the number of accidents they have per mile. The new test could be used to help them judge whether it is safe to keep driving.

The test was developed at Western Kentucky University as part of a project financed by the National Institute on Aging. Dr. Karlene Ball outlined the project Monday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The test measures what's called the useful field of view. This is the amount of area that people can take in during a brief glimpse.

"As people lose more and more of their visual attention ability, they gather less information per glance, and they have to scan the

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TEST

2-13-96 DN

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environment more times and more slowly in order to get the same information," Ball said.

The researchers tested about 1,500 people ages 69 to 84 and found that 39 percent flunked the vision test. Those who failed the test were 16 times more likely to have been involved in a car accident during the previous five years.

In another study with about 240 elderly volunteers, the researchers

watched what happened to high-risk drivers for three years after failing the test. Seventy-three percent of them had accidents, compared with just 3 percent of those did well on the test.

Most states do not require elderly people to take repeat driving tests to renew their licenses, and Ball said there are no plans to require the new vision test. However, she said some

insurance companies are considering giving discounts to drivers who pass the test.

"This could be very useful to physicians who must advise older patients about their crash risk," she said.

The test involves looking at a large computer screen while a picture of a car or truck is flashed for a split second. Participants must iden-

tify what they have seen. Eventually, the test gets harder, with competing images and clutter on the screen.

To pass the test, people must be able take in a scene quickly, divide their attention and sort out distractions.

Results so far have shown that people with early stages of Alzheimer's disease do especially poorly on the test.

WKU up for water-systems grant

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University is in line for a \$500,000 grant for a new technology and training center to help small public water systems.

The U.S. Senate approved the request, which goes to a conference committee in September and then to the House for a final vote, said a spokesman for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

The center would provide training in measuring the health safety of water, system design and setup, water-piping systems, administration, information systems and funding for water systems that are not operating under the Public Service Commission.

The program, if approved, would receive another \$500,000 its second year and \$1 million each of the following three years.

Ed Houston, assistant to the dean of WKU's Ogden College, has tentatively been named the director of the center.

WKU expects to have it operating within a month of the vote if Congress approves it.

CJ 7/30/97

Daily News

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

Western receives grant of \$200,000 from firm

Western Kentucky University's teacher education program will be \$200,000 richer thanks to the BellSouth Foundation.

The telecommunications company announced that a grant will be awarded under the foundation's Recreating Colleges of Teacher Education initiative.

It is a three-year program designed to help colleges and universities transform their teacher training programs.

"BellSouth wants all children to be successful," said BellSouth Foundation President Pat Willis. "The jobs in their future demand greater learning than yesterday's jobs. Personal, social and civic decisions will be more complex. We aim to produce teachers who can prepare students for this changing world."

Western was among eight southern colleges and universities who received grants ranging from \$150,000 to \$250,000.

Western nets \$120,000 in grant monies

By the Daily News *Sept. 27/77*

The Economic Development Administration has awarded \$1.9 million for four Kentucky projects designed to spur economic opportunities.

Western Kentucky University will receive a \$120,000 share of the money for the use of faculty and staff members and facilities to assist economic development activities in southcentral and western Kentucky.

Several other counties also will receive payments under a Department of the Interior program.

Southcentral Kentucky counties receiving more than \$5,000 this fiscal year are: Allen County, \$5,456; Barren County, \$11,508; Edmonson County, \$33,995; and Hart County, \$6,103.

The payments compensate counties for non-taxable federal lands located within their boundaries.

7-14-96 DN

WKU will get grant

Western Kentucky University will receive a federal grant of \$205,684 to train staff to prepare students for a successful post-secondary education.

The Federal TRIO Training Program of the U.S. Department of Education will help fund conferences, seminars, internships, workshops and publication of manuals.

BellSouth money puts professors into public schools

Western and U of L benefit; goal is better teacher education

By MICHAEL JENNINGS
The Courier-Journal

10/16/97

Anyone who assumes that a philosophy professor wouldn't willingly help out with a public high school's planning chores is likely to get a low grade from Cassandra Pinnick.

"I think it is a wrong assumption," said Pinnick, who teaches logic to undergraduates at Western Kentucky University. For her, she said, helping a local school makes perfect sense

because the students who may benefit "are very likely the students that will end up in my class" on the Bowling Green campus.

A \$200,000 grant from the BellSouth Foundation will help Pinnick and more than 20 other WKU faculty members, mostly from the arts and sciences and business faculties, gain insight into high schools' problems.

Another \$200,000 grant from the BellSouth Foundation will help the University of Louisville School of Education base all its graduate programs on the same assumptions that have been built into its program that leads to a master of arts in teaching.

Under the new approach, teachers in training are assumed to be agents of change, and their preparation is

grounded in what schools or school systems have "identified as burning issues," said Ric Hovda, director of U of L's Center for the Collaborative Advancement of the Teaching Profession.

WKU and U of L are among eight Southern universities and colleges that will divide \$1.6 million from a BellSouth Foundation project to help teacher-education colleges redesign themselves. More than 75 schools applied for the grants, which were announced last month.

Jim Becker, an education professor at WKU who is overseeing the use of the money there, said a principal aim is to familiarize faculty outside of teacher-training programs with the problems of public schools.

Ideally, he said, it will prompt professors to change what they teach and how they teach it.

Becker said the professors will visit the 20 participating high schools largely to learn, not to dispense wisdom.

"We're not selling workshops, and we're not selling programs," he said.

Pinnick, who said she has already had "quite a lot of interaction" with local public schools, said she hopes her expertise in reasoning might help a school that's trying to rank its needs. "But I still don't know the concerns of a particular school, and I want to respect the hard work those people have put in before I waltz in the door," she said.

Becker said that if the project

works, it may be expanded to elementary and middle schools.

U of L recently redesigned its initial teacher-training program, Hovda said teacher certification, which U of L now offers only at the graduate level, assumes teachers will be both learners and leaders.

The BellSouth grant, he said, will help the university refashion programs that let experienced teachers earn graduate degrees or advance in rank.

In the new training programs, teams of students and faculty members will work together on some important sort of school change, such as writing instruction or student assessment, he said.

WKU gets \$20 million U.S. grant

Award to create Head Start center is school's biggest

By CYNTHIA EAGLES
The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University announced yesterday that it has received the largest grant in its history, to create a center to improve the quality of Head Start

programs for poor children throughout the southeastern United States.

The five-year, \$20 million federal grant makes Western one of 10 regional Head Start centers that the federal government is establishing across the country to improve Head Start and Early Head Start programs, which help low-income children succeed at school.

Western will expand an existing center on campus to provide expert advice and guidance to 2,600 Head Start programs in eight states.

The states are Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee,

Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Georgia. They have one of the country's largest concentrations of poor families and Head Start children, federal officials said.

Colleen Mendel, who directs the existing program at Western, which serves Head Start in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina, said national studies have shown that Head Start helps poor students get a better start in life, beyond boosting test scores in math and reading.

"They're less likely to be placed in special-education classrooms; the lit-

tle girls are less likely to become pregnant when teen-agers; and all are less likely to have brushes with the law as juveniles," said Mendel, whose program won the federal grant because of its current work.

"They're more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to go to college or vocational school, more likely to work after they get out of school and more likely to own their own homes," she said.

Western beat out several major universities in the eight states to win the federal grant, though officials couldn't provide a list yesterday of

those that competed for the award, which is from the U.S. Health and Human Services Department.

Western's new president, Gary Ransdell, told reporters that Western won out over Clemson University in South Carolina, the school he left for Western. Ransdell said he was pleased that Western earned national recognition for the program through one of its core offerings, education.

Western officials couldn't say where the award ranks among those

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THE COURIER-JOURNAL • FROM PAGE ONE • TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1997

A 5

Federal grant is WKU's largest

Continued from Page One

to the state's other universities, but they believe it is one of the largest federal grants any have received in recent years.

Western plans to handle half of the work on campus and the other half at a center it will run in Atlanta.

Western also has developed partnerships with major universities such as Florida State, Duke and North Carolina to establish state centers that will monitor legislation and issues and initiatives related to Head Start and early childhood education.

Carl Martray, dean of Western's College of Education, said other competitors for the grant included Florida State and Duke universities,



WKU President Gary Ransdell announced the Head Start grant.

two of the schools with which Western is now developing partnerships in Head Start.

"Certainly this particular grant recognizes Western's contribution to the education of young children and the leadership role Western has taken in interdisciplinary childhood programs," Martray said.

Michael Knarfen, a U.S. Health and Human Services spokesman, said officials considered a number of things in determining which school should get the grant.

Universities were ranked by federal officials and other experts in child development and the Head Start field, based on how they intended to provide services and the kind of expertise they possessed, Knarfen said.

That included their ability to provide local programs with up-to-date information about children's health issues, to meet Head Start goals for



Mike Montgomery, 26, a former Head Start pupil, worked with 4-year-old Justin Perinovic at Western Kentucky University's model Head Start school. "To be able to be part of something like this is just fabulous," he said after hearing about the grant. Beside him, Connie Dye played with three other students.

BY JIM ROSHAN, SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-JOURNAL

getting parents involved, and to help low-income families become more sufficient by teaching them skills such as budgeting and child development.

"We consider this award (to Western) very prestigious," Knarfen said. "This is about serving hundreds of programs serving thousands of kids and their families in the southeastern United States."

MENDEL, DIRECTOR of Western's Head Start training and resource program, a branch of the school's College of Education, said her program won the grant because of her staff's vision on how Western can improve Southern Head Start programs and how it has helped the programs in the four states it already serves.

That help includes offering regional Head Start seminars, conducting research with other colleges and universities, establishing a pool of expert consultants, and using Western's technology to provide education and training to those outside the area. The program also helps communities plan new Head Start programs, Men-

del said.

Head Start's goal is ensure that disadvantaged children enter regular school on par with their classmates, and that their parents learn to foster an enriched learning environment at home, she said.

Besides providing the expanded services, Mendel's program will continue to run its own Head Start program as a laboratory school and serve as the state's regional resource and referral center on the need for and availability of child care.

Mendel's \$6 million annual operating budget, which will grow by \$3.9 million with the new grant, does not receive any funding from Western. It operates solely on federal and state grants and the fees it charges for some services.

AS WESTERN made its big announcement yesterday, classes continued as usual a few rooms away at the model Head Start school.

Maggie Gramling, 6, of Bowling Green, and her pal Abby Potter, 4, of Rockfield, told a reporter they like the program "because it's lots of fun" and "we get to play with our

friends."

Mike Montgomery, 26, a former Head Start pupil who now monitors the disabled children in Western's Head Start program, called news of the federal grant "an honor."

"I personally thought it was just a great opportunity for the university as well as our program," he said. "To be able to be part of something like this is just fabulous."

WKU gets \$200,000 for school assistance

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University will use a \$200,000 BellSouth Foundation grant to provide technical assistance to 20 high schools.

The grant also will help establish technology centers to help instruction, recruitment and retention of teacher education students. The centers will include instructional videos and writing, multimedia and research and computer areas.

Participating high schools include Allen County-Scottsville, Barren County, Bowling Green, Caverna, Glasgow, Greenwood, Hart County, Logan County, Warren Central, Warren East, Daviess County, Green County, Larue County, Meade County, Owensboro Apollo, Frederick Fraize, Monroe County, Owensboro, Russell County and Taylor County.

Oct. 31/97

Health departments, WKU get radon grants

By the Daily News Nov 7, 1997

Health departments serving several southcentral Kentucky counties and Western Kentucky University will receive state and federal grants Monday for radon testing and education.

Allen County Health Department will receive \$600 and Barren River District Health Department, which serves Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Simpson and Warren counties, will receive \$17,248. Western will receive \$35,000 for on-campus testing and mitigation.

The campaign will supply home builders and homeowners with information and free testing kits.

Radon, a colorless, odorless gas, can be a health hazard when it is trapped inside a building. Nearly one in every 15 homes in the United States has elevated levels of indoor radon.

Grant will help fund a training program

Western Kentucky University associate professor Elizabeth Jones will use a three-year \$439,756 federal grant to establish a student training program.

Students of psychology, speech communication disorders, social work and child and family studies will participate in a two-semester program that will help them recommend early intervention services for young children with disabilities and for their families.

The grant will help provide financial assistance to students in the program.

Daily News Dec 23, 1997

Western looks ahead
with federal grant ⁹⁻⁶⁻⁹⁵ _{DN}

A \$25,000 federal grant will help Western Kentucky University establish the Center for Communities of the Future, a program sponsored by the Institute for Economic Development and other organizations.

Steve House, executive director of the institute, said the Center for Communities of the Future is designed to help small communities position themselves to be competitive in the 21st century. The program is a cooperative effort between the Bowling Green-Warren County and Kentucky chambers of commerce, the Kentucky Association of Chamber Executives, Leadership Kentucky and Leadership Bowling Green.

VF. Grants

WKU puts focus on Barren County

Using a two-year, \$30,000 grant from the GTE Foundation, Western Kentucky University will help prepare minority students from two Barren County high schools to major in mathematics, the sciences or engineering.

Up to 30 students in grades 10 and 11 at Glasgow and Barren County high schools will participate; they can earn six hours of college credit in math and science. The program will use interactive television links between WKU's Bowling Green and Glasgow campuses to provide instruction, and Western also will provide special programs and summer workshops on its main campus.

African-American alumni and students of Western will meet with the high school students to talk about science-related careers and provide leadership training.

2-21-96 CJ

VF - Grant

Grant funds purchase of Western lab equipment

By the Daily News 5-14-96

Western Kentucky University's Department of Chemistry has received \$80,000 to purchase laboratory equipment.

The National Science Foundation will administer \$40,755 in a grant. The rest will come from a matching fund.

Dr. Darwin Dahl, an associate professor of chemistry and the project director, said Western was chosen from a field of 1,500 to 2,000 applicants with about 600 grants awarded.

WKU gets grant from Dept. of Education

DAily News 3/8/1998
Western Kentucky University has been awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant under the business and international education program.

The \$44,702 grant will be used to internationalize the curriculum, increase student and faculty exchanges, and raise awareness of businesses and industries of economic development overseas.

Western gets \$100,000

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University will receive a \$100,000 grant from Tennessee Valley Authority as part of a program to support real-world investment for college students.

The money will be invested through a portfolio developed by Western students in the departments of finance and business administration.

March 13 1998

WKU granted \$88,000 in stock for projects

DN 3/20/98
Western Kentucky University will receive almost \$88,000 in stock from Ralph E. Crump of Stratasy Inc. in Trumbull, Conn., to support the university's industrial technology program.

The stock will help buy equipment that faculty members and students use for research and special projects.

University on tap for \$1 M grant

By the Daily News

June 14, 1998

Western Kentucky University stands to receive \$1.5 million in grants for astronomical- and water-systems research.

Two grant requests by Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., were included as part of an appropriations bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

A \$1 million grant would go toward design, construction and operation of an astronomical satellite telescope and an accompanying observatory in Arizona.

A \$500,000 grant would allow research to continue at Western's public water system technology center.

In 1997, a similar grant request of \$500,000 by McConnell helped to establish the center. The center serves eight southeastern states to improve rural water systems, said Martin Houston, dean of Western's Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health.

Grants will fund training programs

By the Daily News

A Western Kentucky University program to encourage students from disadvantaged backgrounds to attend college is getting some help from the U.S. Department of Education.

The department awarded nearly \$700,000 in three grants to Western's TRIO Program, U.S. Rep. Ron Lewis, R-Kentucky, announced Fri-

day.

The TRIO Program is a federal outreach program designed to help students who are low income or have other disadvantages to enroll in and graduate from college.

The grants will fund training programs for staff and program directors to increase their knowledge and skills in general program management.

Colleges get money for new programs

Eastern, Western, Murray to share state's \$10 million

By MICHAEL JENNINGS
The Courier-Journal

7/14/98
FRANKFORT, Ky. — After agreeing to limit their ambitions, three of Kentucky's regional universities have won the go-ahead to draw more than \$10 million by July 2000 from a new state trust fund for "programs of distinction" on the regional campuses.

The state Council on Postsecondary Education approved the money yesterday for programs in justice and safety at Eastern Kentucky University, telecommunications systems management at Murray State University and applied research and technology at Western Kentucky University. EKV will get \$4.2 million, Murray \$3.11 million and WKU \$2.9 million by the end of the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

The money will come from the Regional University Excellence Trust Fund — one of several new sources of money created by last year's postsecondary education reform law. Originally, EKV and Murray had each requested money for two programs, and WKU for four, but under pressure from the council they pared their requests to one program per school.

That was one of several changes

and clarifications council members asked for May 18, when EKV's and Murray's requests first came up for review. (WKU made its request too late for consideration in May.)

Kenneth Walker, the council's chief finance officer, said all three schools did a good job of reshaping their requests. He said the revised versions reflect "the inherent differences" among the state's six regional schools and underscore how wrong it is to group them "in a single box."

EKU's money is intended to help its College of Law Enforcement anticipate justice and safety issues through the analysis of statewide data and comparisons with other states. The money will also help pay for research intended to show what works best among possible solutions to justice and safety problems.

Murray's money will go to create a Center for Telecommunications Systems Management that will offer bachelor's and master's degrees, develop conferences and training programs and publish a scholarly journal. The council postponed action on Murray's request that the center also offer an associate degree.

WKU officials said their money will provide students with interdisciplinary scientific and technical training while helping solve real industrial and environmental problems in the state and nation. Council President Gordon Davies said WKU's program reflects a promising new approach in undergraduate education.

"I look at this as an effort to improve education in the broadest sense . . . because general education needs to become more problem-oriented," Davies said.

The council has already approved requests by the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville to draw on a separate trust fund that is intended to boost the state's two research universities to prominence among their peer institutions nationally. That money — a combined \$18 million for the two schools by July 2000 — will support four programs at U of L and U of KY.

ALSO YESTERDAY, the council approved initial, somewhat sketchy policy guidelines for the Commonwealth Merit Scholarship program created by this year's legislature. Walker said blanks in the guidelines will be filled in later.

The scholarship program enables Kentucky students to earn annual college scholarships of up to \$2,000 by making good grades in high school, and it provides for supplemental awards based on ACT scores.

The council set curriculum requirements for the scholarships that in most respects mirror the state's minimum high school graduation requirements. The council's standards are more stringent for elective and substitute courses, however.

Most acceptable academic electives must be "as rigorous or more rigorous" than required courses. Elective

courses in foreign languages must include the speaking and writing aspects of a language, vocational courses must be beyond the introductory level and only one elective credit each of physical education and health can receive scholarship credit.

"We need to be careful about who defines" the requirement of rigor in elective courses, Walker said, adding that that's one of the questions yet to be resolved. He said the scholarship requirements might eventually be tied to a more exacting standard — the state's pre-college curriculum — but doing so now would be premature because the pre-college curriculum is likely to be revised.

IN OTHER matters, the council spelled out procedures that must be used in planning five regional postsecondary education centers, and it approved new master's degree programs in aquaculture and aquatic science at Kentucky State University and school administration at WKU.

The legislature authorized EKV, WKU, Murray State, Morehead State University and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to analyze student and community needs as a first step toward building the regional centers. The council said yesterday that each center should consist of a single facility and that community residents should also have a hand in planning it.

WKU might receive space exploration grant

Senate approves \$1 million for telescope project

By WILLIAM DEAN

The Daily News

A \$1 million grant that won U.S. Senate approval might allow Western Kentucky University students to explore space without leaving Earth.

The grant was included in a bill at U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's request. A similar bill is pending in the House.

The bills also contain funding requests for a training partnership program at Campbellsville University, a public water system research center at Western, and water service expansion in Hart County.

The space grant would fund the purchase of a second telescope and

pay for the addition of robotics to the current telescope, which is 24 inches long and sits at the university's observatory 12 miles from campus.

The new telescope would be placed at an observatory in Arizona, "where the weather is much better," said Charles McGruder III, physics and astronomy department head at Western.

"We want to gain experience here on Earth operating robotic telescopes remotely. We will then use this experience in order to be in the position of putting our own telescope in outer space and operating it," McGruder said.

An objective of the program is to

involve Kentucky high school and college students in astronomical research, McGruder said.

University personnel plan to submit a proposal to NASA to construct a third telescope, he said.

Western students also would benefit from a \$500,000 installment of a multiple-year grant for the university's public water system research center. The center will offer students hands-on experience in water system management.

The grant would be used to improve water treatment practices in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida during the next five years.

Hart Countians who rely on well

water soon might have another water source. A \$350,000 grant would allow Green River Water District to expand its service area.

"We would use it to best benefit our customers. I know there's a lot of people still in Hart County that needs water," said David Paige, the water district's general manager.

Campbellsville University might receive a \$2 million grant to retrain workers affected by Fruit of the Loom's decision to close its plant in that city. Since the plant closed, unemployment has risen in Taylor, Green, Adair and Russell counties to 18 percent. Campbellsville's training program would focus on preparing those employees for technology-driven occupations.

WKU wins \$24,963 grant to train science teachers

By WILLIAM DEAN *July 21, 1998*
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University will receive a \$24,963 grant to help produce more knowledgeable science teachers.

"Until Kentucky produces many more teachers right out of college with a greater depth of knowledge in science, the state will lag in its ability to educate students for the 21st century knowledge economy," said Joanne Lang, executive director for the Partnership Reform Initiative in Science and Math.

Six colleges and universities in Kentucky will share \$121,000 in grants to PRISM from the Kentucky Science and Technology Council Inc. and the Eisenhower Math-Science Program. The grants

fund the development of course models to strengthen the knowledge and confidence of science teachers.

Science test scores traditionally have been poor in Kentucky, because science teachers have difficulty doing what needs to be done for students, said Karen Hackney, a Western professor of physics and astronomy.

A model submitted by Western professors was selected based on its capacity for collaboration among elementary school faculty members and its application to education standards.

Elementary school teachers will leave the course with materials and project ideas to teach what they have been through, Hackney said.

WKU receives energy-efficiency grant

By the Daily News **Sept 4, 1978**

Western Kentucky University has received a \$31,949 grant from the state Division of Energy.

The grant will be used to improve

energy efficiency in Helm-Cravens Library. These efforts will save the university an estimated \$39,366 in energy costs each year, which can be used to meet other university needs.

VF - GRANTS

Western getting \$200,000 grant

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University will receive a \$200,000 state grant to upgrade its farm and buy equipment.

State Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith will present the check during Western's football homecoming game at 4 p.m. Oct. 24.

Identical grants will go to Morehead State, Murray State and Eastern Kentucky universities.

DAILY NEWS

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RIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1998 - Page 5-A

Western receives grant

Western Kentucky University will receive an economic development assistance grant, U.S. Rep. Ron Lewis said.

Western faculty and staff members will use the \$120,000 grant to assist counties' economic development activities.

Apr. 18, 1999

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Students beat market with TVA money

By DUNCAN MANSFIELD
The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — College students beat a high-flying stock market in the first results from an investment program the Tennessee Valley Authority set up with \$1.8 million from its nuclear decommissioning fund.

"We are pleased, and obviously the professors and the schools and everybody else is pleased with the performance," TVA Chief Financial Officer David Smith said Friday.

"These monies are earning as good as or better than what they would earn with professional managers."

Eighteen state universities in the seven-state TVA region participated in this first year. Western Carolina University has just joined, but wasn't part of the annual judging.

Each school was given \$100,000 to invest, with certain guidelines and oversight from trustee First American Bank.

Smith said the first-year competition was judged on the performance of the students' investments over the last four months of 1998.

During that period, the stock market benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 average grew 29 percent, and TVA's professional investment managers achieved 30 percent growth.

As a whole, the 18 student teams also averaged 30 percent growth, Smith said. Thirteen teams exceeded the 30 percent mark and five were below. None lost money.

The University of Kentucky was the top performer with a 45.5 percent return. Tennessee Technology University was second with 43.1 percent and Alabama A&M University was third with 40.1 percent. TVA would not release figures for the other schools.

"We were fortunate and we had a good plan of attack," said Tennessee Tech professor Daryl Martin. "We just made some smart investments. That is the bottom line."

"The students worked very hard and most of all, they enjoyed it," said Alabama A&M assistant professor Mohammad Robbani.

Colleges participating in the TVA student investment program

By The Associated Press

Colleges and universities receiving \$100,000 each from the Tennessee Valley Authority's Investment Challenge program:

- Austin Peay State University
- East Tennessee State University
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Tennessee State University
- Tennessee Technological University
- University of Memphis
- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- University of Tennessee at Martin
- University of Tennessee at Knoxville
- University of Alabama in Huntsville
- Alabama A&M University
- University of North Alabama
- Murray State University
- University of Kentucky
- Western Kentucky University
- Mississippi State University
- Mississippi University for Women
- University of Mississippi
- Western Carolina University

Kentucky officials couldn't be reached for comment.

The program raised some eyebrows among TVA watchers because the money comes from a fund devoted to cleaning up TVA's six running or idled nuclear reactors when their lives expire beginning in 2017.

The TVA has \$694 million in the fund now. It will need \$2 billion.

TVA says it can reach that goal through investments without additional contributions — at an average return rate of 5 percent annually.

TVA watchers say it is hard to measure the impact of putting a portion of the fund in the hands of student investors when the market is running like gangbusters.

Increased grants funds at WKU a good academic sign

One of the main functions of a university full of English and philosophy and religion professors is to remind the surrounding community that a good fiscal bottom line is not the sole goal of life.

But being in good fiscal shape is a plus for both people and institutions, so even philosophy professors should be happy that Western Kentucky University has exceeded its goal for sponsored research and set a record for grant awards.

The strategic plan, titled "Challenging the Spirit," called for Western to reach \$18 million in sponsored programs by 2003. During the 1998-99 academic year alone, faculty members were awarded a record \$19.3 million in extramural funds, compared to \$15.4 million the year before.

It's true that money isn't everything, but it does aid research. Money may not buy happiness, but it can fund research to tell us why we're unhappy.

It's also true that when people have confidence and respect for an institution, they often put money into it. So the growth of sponsored research is a definite plus for Western.

In his annual address to the faculty, President Gary Ransdell made a statement about the funding increase that should be repeated.

"More important than the money, however, is the importance of the basic and applied research in which you engaged and the degree to which it is improving our curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate level and improving the quality of life for us and those we serve," he said.

Neither institutions nor people should stay static. They must change – hopefully for the better.

The research funds are only one indication that Western is changing for the better.

August 25, 1999



Daily News

TRAILS ONLY UK AND U OF L

Western Passes Goal For Research Grants

One year into a five-year strategic plan, Western Kentucky University already has exceeded its goal for sponsored research and set a record for grant awards.

"Challenging the Spirit" calls for Western to reach \$18 million in sponsored research by 2003. In fiscal year 1999, faculty members were awarded a record \$19.3 million in external funds, compared with \$15.4 million in 1998.

In his annual address to faculty and staff, university President Gary Ransdell praised Western faculty and the Office of Sponsored Programs for the 28 percent growth in awards over 1998 and for the 90 percent growth over the past five years.

"More important than the money, however, is the importance of the basic and applied research in which you engaged and the degree to which it is improving our curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate level and improving the quality of life for us and those we serve," Dr. Ransdell said.

"This whole thing has put Western on a definable plateau that it wasn't once on," said Dr. Phillip E. Myers, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs.

Work by faculty and staff to write grant proposals and seek new funding sources is paying off for the university and the community and is helping Western achieve goals of being rationally competitive and to enhance student learning, Myers said.

"In this part of the Western experience, we certainly are set apart from our sister institutions," Myers said. Western ranks third behind the University of Kentucky and the

University of Louisville in proposals and awards in Kentucky and compares favorably with institutions in neighboring states, he said.

Last year, Western faculty submitted nearly \$35 million in grant proposals, "a huge jump" over the \$22 million normally submitted, he said. "Faculty across the campus have been spending considerably more time writing proposals and they're working more in teams to write proposals," Myers said.

Here's a breakdown of the \$19.3 million received in FY99: \$13.1 million in federal awards, up 15 percent; \$6.5 million in research awards, up 49 percent; \$2.7 million in instruction awards, up 39 percent; \$9.9 million in public awards, up 17 percent; \$910,040 in total facilities and administrative cost collections, up 72 percent.

"Our total awards illustrated that faculty did a pretty good job enhancing student learning through the grants and contracts brought in," Myers said.

Western provided about \$3 million last year in matching funds and other cost sharing, Myers said. "For a minimal input in terms of cost sharing, we're seeing great benefits as a University," he said.

Benefits of sponsored research include enhanced student learning and faculty development, acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment for faculty and student use and increased partnerships with industry, community agencies, area schools and universities, Myers said.

Great gains have been made in the Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health, Western's first Program of Distinction, Myers

said. Departments in Ogden College, including astronomy, biology, chemistry and engineering technology, received about \$12 million in grants last year from federal agencies like NASA, EPA and National Science Foundation, he said.

"We're really focusing on federal awards which will enhance faculty development and student learning more than in the past," he said.

All academic areas and support units have been working on grants and getting more organized, Myers said. "They're driven by the necessity to keep up with professional developments across the country," he said.

A number of initiatives are under way in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and in the

Gordon Ford College of Business.

As part of its effort to assist faculty and staff in obtaining external funds, the Office of Sponsored Programs will have an open house for new faculty members on Sept. 15 and five grant workshops this fall and will provide on-line to funding opportunity announcements.

With the \$18 million goal surpassed, Western is setting its sights on higher targets. "You always want to have high goals," Myers said.

He expects to have a goal of \$22 million in the next year with a target of \$25 million or even \$30 million by 2004.

Daily News

10/2/99

3A

Senate approves \$1.5M for projects at Western

By the Daily News

The Senate has approved \$1.5 million for two projects at Western Kentucky University, according to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

The funding was included in the VA/HUD Appropriations Bill, which also has to be approved by a conference committee before receiving final approval from President Bill Clinton.

The bill includes \$500,000 to continue funding a Public Water System Technology Center at Western.

This is the third year of funding for the center, which provides tech-

nical training and testing services for more than a dozen water treatment agencies in the region.

The bill also contains \$1 million that would allow Western to operate a 24-inch telescope in Kentucky and build an observatory in southern Arizona. Once the observatory is completed, NASA would build and launch an accompanying satellite.

"Participation in these projects will enable students to obtain valuable experience, which will equip them with hands-on training that textbooks and lectures cannot provide," McConnell said.

See WKU, 2A

It also will help a Horse Cave reach for the stars, literally. University look to the future and Kentucky will help Western Kentucky A \$2 million grant to southern Jrlley@bgdailynews.com / 783-3240

The Daily News

By JASON RILEY

■ Federal cash to help astronomy project, Barren County museum

WKU gets stary grant

Oct 15 1999

▲ WKU

From Page One

for \$1.5 million for two projects at Western and \$500,000 for preservation of the American Cave and Karst Center, has been approved by the House and Senate.

The conference report now goes to President Clinton.

Of the \$2 million, half will go to Western for operation of an advanced 24-inch satellite telescope in Kentucky, as well as build an additional observatory in southern Arizona and possibly in Hawaii.

"These will be used for educational outreach and research involving a number of undergraduates at Western as well as a partnership with a variety of institutions," said Michael Carini, an assistant physics and astronomy professor at Western.

Western will use the telescope and observatories to study brightness variations in quasars - centers of distant galaxies that include a massive black hole.

"We are hoping that, by studying these variations, we can learn about the conditions close to these black holes," Carini said.

Western also will use the telescope to search for "very minor brightness variations in stars, which could be signatures of planets crossing in front of stars," he said. "So basically, (Western) is looking for

extra solar planets in other solar systems. ... This will certainly help us gain national recognition as an institution that does cutting-edge research."

Eventually, Western will try to design and launch, through NASA, its own orbiting astronomical telescope, Carini said.

Western also will receive \$500,000 to fund a public water system technology center. The school is situated in a unique geological area, defined by its caverns and underground streams. Western has conducted extensive research and continues to identify characteristics of karst regions.

With Western having an existing working relationship with several water treatment agencies serving more than a dozen counties in western Kentucky that are affected by this geology, the school was an ideal site for the treatment center, McConnell said.

Also in the bill, the American Cave and Karst Center, a nonprofit education center focused on conservation and research of the cave and karst region, received \$500,000.

That money will be used to help the center continue its education and outreach efforts to protect and preserve caves in the karst region of America.

Western in line for \$600,000 for waste research

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky University is in line to receive \$600,000 in federal funds for waste management research.

The grant is in the U.S. Senate's appropriation bill, according to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

McConnell, a senior committee

member, said the research is essential to ensure the future of livestock production because inadequate waste management can spread disease, causing animals to die or production to decline.

Because Kentucky is a top beef and poultry producer, it is more vulnerable

to agriculture waste management problems, McConnell said.

The grant will allow Western to study ways to prevent contamination and keep production levels from dropping. Western also will study the use of chicken waste as a fertilizer and as a nutrition source for cattle.

Good 'news' grant could be coming for Western

School in line for \$2 million in aid

By MITCHELL PLUMLEE
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University likely will get \$2 million in federal aid to train foreign journalists to bring the message of freedom to emerging democracies.

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., included the money in a Senate foreign aid appropriations bill that is awaiting final approval from a Senate-House conference committee.

The money is to be used in 2001 to train print and broadcast journalism students at Western in collaboration with Internews, a non-profit

“We’ve never
had the facilities
available that we
will have at Western.”

”

Annette Makino
Communications for Internews

media support organization based in Washington, D.C.

“Internews ... has played such a vital role in helping establish independent media throughout the former Soviet Union,” President Bill Clinton said.

Internews helped liberate the Soviet Union by using television as a “medium of mediation” in 1982. Following the collapse of Communism, Internews turned its attention to supporting the development of non-governmental television and radio stations in countries making a transition to democracy.

Jo-Ann Huff Albers, head of the journalism and communication department at Western, said the money will be used by the broadcast department.

David Wilkinson, director of educational telecommunications at Western, said how the program will be offered is still in development.

Annette Makino, communications director and vice president of Internews, said Internews seeks to

train media professionals in emerging democracies in order to promote a free, responsible and open media and to improve the quality of life and promote the freedom of expression.

“The hope is to train groups of eight to 18 broadcast journalists at a time, starting out with a smaller amount at first,” she said.

Makino said Internews excited about working with Western.

“They have a stellar journalism program there,” she said. “And they have a lot of facilities that would be great for training foreign journalists. Internews has trained about 1,200 media professionals — so far, all of them foreign. So we’ve got a whole bunch of experience to match up with what they have to offer, so

we’re really hoping it works out.”

Internews is working with foreign journalists in 19 countries. They usually train the journalist in the country where they live and work. The joint program between Internews and Western will be one of the first in which the journalists are brought to America to study.

“We’ve never had the facilities available that we will have at Western,” she said. “There’s a lot of opportunities there to train with state-of-the-art radio and studios. The hope is to send the journalist out to look at some of the American TV and radio stations to see how they work here.”

For more information on Internews, access its Web site at www.internews.org.

Pending bill includes \$600,000 for WKU

By the Daily News July 22, 2000

A proposal to provide \$600,000 for waste management research at Western Kentucky University has been approved by the U.S. Senate, according to Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

The state is a top producer of beef and poultry products, leaving the state susceptible to agricultural waste management problems. WKU will use the funds, which are part of

the fiscal year 2001's Agriculture Appropriations bill, to investigate ways to prevent contamination and keep up production levels.

The bill now goes to a conference committee where House and Senate lawmakers will work out differences between their versions of the bill. Upon final passage by both branches of the legislature, it will go to President Clinton for consideration.



Saturday, October 28, 2000

Western to study poultry waste

Gleaner staff

BOWLING GREEN -- Western Kentucky University will receive some \$300,000 in funds to study ways to solve problems associated with poultry waste.

Poultry production has mushroomed in Kentucky, and the thousands of giant chicken houses each create tons of manure and other waste each year.

Some farmers use the manure to fertilize fields, but the manure contains phosphorous that can build up in fields and run off as a pollutant, according to Dr. Blaine Ferrell, associate dean of Western's Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health.

Western faculty and students will look at several options for reducing excess phosphorous from the soil, including using forage crops and microorganisms.

The research is expected to take at least two years.

Western, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service center at Mississippi State University, will receive \$600,000 for waste management research, with about half going to Western.

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Grant will assist with science at Western

By MITCHELL PLUMLEE

The Daily News DEC 13 2000

Western Kentucky University's Bowling Green Community College has received a \$295,410 grant to improve science education, according to Western.

The U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education earmarked the grant to fund most of the Community College Regional Science Resource Center – a three-year project for which Western will provide \$94,949.

Western has never received the grant designed to encourage high school students to pursue higher education but, after learning of its availability, Western Provost Barbara Burch asked Barbara Johnston, the community college's enrollment services and grants coordinator, to solicit professors for application ideas.

Karen Powell, the project director and an assistant professor of science at Western, saw a need for a science resource center while working with students on science fair projects.

"I realized what limited equipment they have," she said. "We want to get them thinking and seeing what science is like. It will make science seem more real if they're working with real equipment."

As part of the project, the community college will open its science and biology lab to middle school pupils teachers and parents in Warren and surrounding counties on Saturdays and during the evenings and school breaks.

Science scores in Kentucky are tragically low and Johnston hopes the "new science lab will get students less afraid of science and interested in it," she said.

The resource center will begin this coming spring with services expanding during the three-year period.

Congress commits \$1.7 million to fund four Western Ky. University projects

By the Daily News

Four projects at Western Kentucky University will get a total of \$1.7 million through the 106th Congress's final funding bill, announced Sen. Mitch McConnell and Rep. Ron Lewis, both Kentucky Republicans.

The legislation was approved Friday and will be distributed as follows:

- \$700,000 for a mobile health unit and staff to provide primary care, dental and preventive screenings in rural areas of the state;

- \$400,000 to expand the Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Academy with an emphasis on improving emergency medical services in rural areas;

- \$400,000 for the Technology Innovation Challenge program to improve the quality of teacher preparation in incorporating the use of technology in school curriculum; and

- \$207,000 for the Office of Global Business and Entrepreneurship to expand its outreach to business and industry.

"This funding will allow Western Kentucky University to provide vitally important services to areas of Kentucky that desperately need its help," McConnell said. "These worthwhile projects demonstrate WKU's concern for the community as well as its commitment to education."

Western gets grants to help boost math and science in middle schools

By the Daily News JAN 07 2001

Western Kentucky University has received \$125,490 from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Education Grant for three projects and \$47,211 for a collaboration project with Murray State University.

The projects are to boost achievement in middle schools, concentrating on teaching and learning in math and science.

The three Western projects are:

Raising Achievement in Middle School Science; The River: A Resource for Improving Math and Science Content; and Teaching and Learning Science Core Content Using Astronomy and Space Science Activities.

Western and Murray will work together on a joint project called Connections: Math/Science Across the Curriculum Using the Environment.

Daily News APR 05 2001

WKU to get grant for nanotechnology research

Western Kentucky University is one of 16 institutions nationwide chosen this week to receive a U.S. Air Force and Department of Defense grant for nanotechnology research.

Western will receive \$119,000 toward the purchase of an X-ray diffractometer, a machine used to measure distances at the atomic level and map particle shapes and sizes.

NASA awards WKU grant

U.S. Rep. Ron Lewis said Friday that NASA has awarded Western Kentucky University a \$125,000 grant.

WKU will receive the money over the next three years and will use it to develop research infrastructure for NASA.

"Western's quality research capacity attracted this grant," said Lewis, R-Ky. "I congratulate the university for its fine work and know that these funds will help contribute to future research efforts in engineering, mathematics and technology."

Daily News JUN 12 2001

WKU grant outlook is \$10 million

Bills so far have included \$1.75 million

By ROBYN L. MINOR

The Daily News

JUL 22 2001

rminor@bgdailynews.com/783-3249

Western Kentucky University hopes to garner \$10 million in federal grants when all the appropriations bills make their way through Congress this year.

The university got word this week that \$1.75 million has been included in bills so far.

The funding that has been approved by the Appropriations Committee and is awaiting full Congressional approval includes \$750,000 for a waste management program, \$500,000 for a rural water center and \$500,000 to establish juvenile delinquency prevention programs.

"These are ... great examples in which our faculty are working hard to improve the quality of life in this part of Kentucky," Western President Gary Ransdell said.

Ransdell said Western is seeking about \$10 million in federal grants for programs based in all four of its undergraduate colleges.

"They are mostly in the applied sciences, but we also are seeking continued funding for our journalist training program and for coal research," he said.

The journalism program is to train foreign journalists in covering a democratic society, according to Phil Myers, director of the WKU Research Foundation.

Last year, Western received about \$6.5 million in grants; most notably among them is the rural mobile health unit that will roll out in October, Ransdell said.

Operated by the school's nursing program, the self-contained unit "will make its way through small communities to address health needs," he said.

Western received a two-year, \$679,000 grant through

See WKU, 2A

▲ WKU

From Page One

its Rural Health Center for the mobile unit, Myers said.

It will offer help to people in disadvantaged counties and services and training for health care providers. He expects that 500 to 1,000 people could be served each year.

Western also is using a \$207,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education at the Center for Global Studies and Entrepreneurship. That program will make improvements in international education curriculum and improve opportunities for exchange programs, Myers said.

And Western is looking for federal funds for business and technology innovation programs and \$1.8 million to upgrade and make improvements at Lost River Cave by making it more of an instructional site for faculty and students.

The cave still would be open to tourists, but classroom facili-

ties would be added.

"It is such a pristine state there" that it affords educational opportunities, Myers said.

As for chances of getting the final approval for the funding, he said, "It's looking really good in terms of our awards for this year. We have typically gotten about 70 percent of our requests funded."

Ransdell and Myers said Western has been helped greatly by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and U.S. Rep. Ron Lewis, R-Cecilia.

In all, the university has received more than \$20 million in outside grants and contracts, Myers said.

"This is exactly what we should be doing pursuing state and federal funding to solve specific problems in our region of the state," Ransdell said. "It's our job to ensure a high quality of life for everyone in our service area."

Western nets half-million safe water grant

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Louisville, announced Friday that Western Kentucky University's Small Public Water System Technological Assistance Center will receive \$500,000.

The center is one of eight established by the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996. The centers were established to aid small public water districts with technical advice, training, financial assistance and managerial assistance.

"This is great news for Western Kentucky University," McConnell said in a written statement. "This funding will enable researchers at the university to continue their important study into ways to improve the quality of drinking water in the region."

The center at Western has been in operation for a year, according to Bob Skipper, Western's public affairs officer.

Daily News Aug 4, 2001

WKU to get \$3.3 million for projects

By ROBYN L. MINOR
The Daily News

When federal spending bills are signed into law this month, \$3.3 million will have been earmarked for projects at Western Kentucky University.

The projects, which U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he has been instrumental in getting, are outside of any competitive federal grants the university may have received.

They are part of \$500 million in funding priorities McConnell said he established for Kentucky. Western is the only local entity to receive any of those earmarks.

When questioned Thursday about his funding habits, McConnell said once an overall budget cap is established, it's his goal to get what he can for Kentucky.

"It is clear that I have been able to produce for my state," he said.

The funding for Western is

contained in several different appropriations bills.

The largest is \$1 million in the foreign operations bill to train journalists from emerging democracies. Earlier in the year, Western had a group of journalists from Indonesia on campus.

Western also received \$500,000 to establish a Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Project as part of the commerce, justice and state bill.

From the labor, health and human services bill, Western will receive \$500,000 to continue its mobile health screening program. The university last month unveiled a mobile health unit that will operate in the state's western counties.

There also will be \$500,000 to establish a Technology Innovation Challenge Program; \$500,000 for the Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Academy; and \$300,000 for Healthy Farm Families Initiative.

Western also received about \$1 million for agriculture-related projects, including \$500,000 for its Rural Water Center and \$100,000 for improvements at Lost River Cave, according to Robbin Taylor, director of governmental relations for the university.

"In the past four to five years, we have had a good bit of success in gaining federal funding through the offices of McConnell and U.S. Rep. Ron Lewis (R-Cecilia)," Taylor said. "With the decline in state funds, this type of funding becomes more important to us and we are going to continue to be aggressive in pursuing it."

Taylor said the programs in general provide hands-on training for Western students and faculty and provide vital services to surrounding communities. For example, the Rural Water Center provides technical training and services for small water treatment

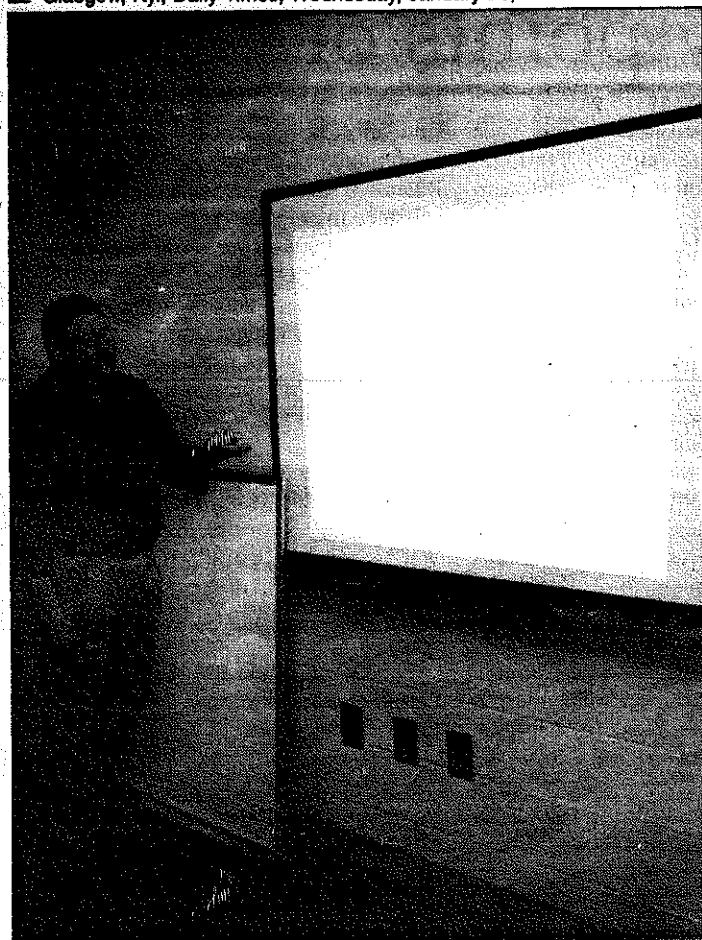
facilities in the region.

While McConnell is proud of what he has garnered for Kentucky, a political watchdog group suggests otherwise.

Tom Schatz, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Citizens Against Government Waste, said it would be better if such projects were competitively awarded and not stuck on appropriations bills by lawmakers.

Schatz said his organization ranked Kentucky 15th last year in securing pork. The group describes pork as: funding requested by only one chamber of Congress; not specifically authorized; not competitively awarded; not requested by the president; greatly exceeding the president's budget request or previous funding levels; not the subject of hearings; or serving only a local or special interest.

- *The Associated Press contributed information for this article.*



Jim Clark teaches an information technology class using a "smart board" which interacts with a computer. Notes posted on the board can be saved in the computer. The technical college has such a board in every classroom.

WKU receives \$5.1 million in federal funds for 2002

Congress has approved the fiscal year 2002 budget that include \$5.1 million in federal funds obtained through the efforts of Sen. Mitch McConnell and Rep. Ron Lewis for projects involving Western Kentucky University. This list provides brief details about each appropriation, the federal budget area and the primary legislative sponsor.

- \$1.2 million for waste management research: Continued funding for poultry waste project with Mississippi State University and a new project for cattle waste research; funding for both is likely to be continued in '03 budget with an additional request. (Agriculture; Sen. Mitch McConnell)

- \$500,000 for juvenile delinquency initiative: A new WKU project to develop mental health assessment programs to help youths and their families, specialized after-school programs for youths, and structured day-time programs for youths who have been removed from school. (Commerce/Justice/State; McConnell)

- \$1 million for foreign journalist training program: Continued funding for International Journalism and Media Management Program. (Foreign Operations; McConnell)

- \$100,000 for Lost River Cave: A new project to improve storm water treatment and expand navigable waters inside Lost River Cave. (Energy & Water; Lewis)

- \$500,000 for Technology Innovation Challenge Program: The continuing "e-train express" project

partners with 28 school districts to train teachers to use computer technology in the classroom. (Education/Labor/Health and Human Services; McConnell)

- \$500,000 for Rural Mobile Health Unit: Funding will allow WKU to expand medical and dental care to rural communities; project currently covering 10-county Barren River Area Development District service area. (Education/Labor/Health and Human Services; McConnell)

- \$500,000 for Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Academy: Continued funding to expand education and training programs. (Education/Labor/Health and Human Services; McConnell)

- \$300,000 for Healthy Farm Families initiative: New project will provide health information to elderly rural residents. (Education/Labor/Health and Human Services; McConnell)

- \$500,000 to Small Public Water System Technology Center: Continued funding to provide training and technical assistance to small rural water systems in partnership with the Kentucky Rural Water Association. (Veterans Affairs/Housing and Urban Development/EPA; McConnell)

- \$3.5 million to Fort Knox: WKU also is participating with UK and U of L on a research partnership on state-of-the-art technology for the battlefield. (Defense; McConnell, Rep. Ron Lewis)

BOWLING GREEN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Changing Lives
A New Day Dawns For Educational Opportunities In Glasgow

Expanding Educational Opportunities in the Areas of :

WKU receives \$190,000 for adult education

Western Kentucky University will receive a national Education Opportunity Grant for the Department of Education to help fund programs that help adults continue their education.

Western will receive \$190,000 for each of the next five years, according to 2nd District Congressman Ron Lewis.

The grant allows Western to offer academic advising, career workshops, classes and testing so that adults will qualify for admissions, financial aid services and tutoring.

Daily News

MAY 30 2002

WKU gets Department of Education grant

Western Kentucky University received a \$359,000 grant through the U.S. Department of Education.

The grant is part of the department's Talent Search program, which helps colleges and universities support students from disadvantaged backgrounds and prepare potential first-generation college students for higher education.

Program activities encourage high school graduation and college attendance, as well as help high school dropouts. With the grant funds, Western will be able to provide academic, financial and career counseling, tutoring services, exposure to college campuses, assistance with admission requirements and mentoring programs.

Daily News July 13, 2002

Western to receive NASA program grant

Western Kentucky University will receive a \$100,000 grant from NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.

The Space Grant program helps NASA work with universities around the country on projects that increase the number of college graduates and faculty who are qualified to become involved with NASA as employees or researchers.

Western received the maximum award under the program.

"Students and faculty involved in these projects today can become researchers who are experts in new technologies," said U.S. Rep. Ron Lewis, R-Cecilia. "Kentucky benefits from high-tech workers and the science and technology research done at our universities." *Daily News*

OCT 09 2002

Briefly

— From staff and wire reports

Bill could help two programs at Western

Two programs at Western Kentucky University could get some additional funding from the federal government after the Senate passed a \$390 billion spending bill for the rest of the fiscal year.

The bill provides a \$1 million increase for a joint research program between Western and Mississippi State University to study the use of chicken litter as a fertilizer source, according to U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky.

Jenks Britt, agriculture department head, said the program is in its third year. The money will be used to pay for equipment, faculty stipends and salary for graduate assistants.

One of the advantages of appropriations over grant funding is the money is recurring as long as the research is successful, Britt said.

"We don't have to write a new grant proposal every two years," he said.

Western's Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Project also received an additional \$2 million in the bill.

The bill now goes to a joint committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate before it goes to President Bush for final approval.

Region lands more than \$13 million in funds

Federal government's appropriations should be signed into law by President Bush next week; include money for city's riverfront development and six Western Kentucky University projects

By JASON DOOLEY FEB 15 2003
The Daily News

jdooley@bgdailynews.com/783-3276

The federal government's Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

includes more than \$13 million in funding for several projects in Bowling Green and southcentral Kentucky.

The bill passed the Senate and House of Representatives on Thursday night and

is expected to be signed into law by President Bush sometime this week.

The bill includes \$4.5 million for the Bowling Green Riverfront development project, \$6.25 million for six Western Kentucky University projects, \$1.7 million for access roads for the planned Kentucky TriModal Transpark, \$450,000 for design work on the widening of Ky. 101 in Edmonson County and \$148,800 for

Community Action of Southern Kentucky to help enhance public transportation services in Bowling Green.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., requested the funding for the Western and Riverfront projects, while Rep. Ron Lewis, R-Bowling Green, was responsible for adding funding for the other projects to the bill.

"These projects are important to Ken-

tucky, and I was pleased to help bring this money home," McConnell said.

The six Western projects being funded under the bill include:

- \$2.2 million for waste-management research being carried on in conjunction with the Agriculture Research Service to examine ways to prevent soil- and water

See FUNDS, 5A

FUNDS, from 1A

contamination from waste products and keep livestock production levels from dropping.

- \$1 million for a Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Program focusing on developing daytime programs for youths removed from school, after-school programs for youth, and mental health assessments to help young people and their families.

- \$1.2 million for Western's new Complex for Biological Sciences and Engineering for purchase of equipment, including a robotics lab, a prototyping facility and a plant-cell culture lab.

- \$400,000 for the Mobile Health Unit that provides primary care, dental care and preventive health screenings for more than 6,000 patients in rural- and medically underserved communities in southcentral Kentucky.

- \$450,000 for the Small Public Water Technological Assistance Center, which provides training, financial, managerial and technical assistance to small public water systems in the region.

- \$1 million for the International Journalism and Media Management Training Program, a cooperative effort with the Internews Network to support open media worldwide.

Western President Gary Ransdell said the school is grateful for the funding and for McConnell's

continued support of the university.

"This funding will help us continue to provide essential services to our region while providing our students and faculty with opportunities to conduct relevant research and practical training," Ransdell said. "This kind of support is essential to our mission of becoming the best comprehensive university in Kentucky."

McConnell applauded Ransdell's efforts to attract top-flight researchers to Western as a prime reason the funding was available for the school.

"The fact that we were successful in getting this funding is a tribute to the leadership of President Ransdell and the impressive team he has assembled," McConnell said.

The money given to the Riverfront park will be used for the completion of the park on the banks of the Barren River and the construction of a shared-use walking and biking trail between that park and Kereiakes Park, said Bowling Green City Commissioner Jim Bullington, a member of the city's Greenways Commission.

"About a month ago, it looked like the grant for the project was going to be cut by about 25 percent, so this is a tremendous piece of good news," Bullington said.

"We're very grateful to Sen. McConnell for helping us."

Inter-Modal Transportation Authority President Dan Cherry said the money appropriated to the transpark project will be split between design and construction of the planned industrial development's interior road network and planning and design work on a planned interchange on Interstate 65 to serve the transpark.

Because a \$25 million bond issue for the first phase of the development is currently pending a hearing before the state Court of Appeals, exactly when construction on the park's internal roads is not certain at this point, Cherry said.

"Our hope is that it would start sometime this summer," he said. "We're hoping for a rapid resolution of the court case, but there's no way to predict when it might happen."

Lewis said the funding will help the project, which is supported by many local governments in southcentral Kentucky, to move forward.

"Local governments are working together to make this industrial and transportation park a reality," he said. "Access to the transpark and connections to major highways such as U.S. 31-W and I-65 will be necessary for their effort to move forward."

WKU grants up by \$20M

By JASON DOOLEY
The Daily News

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Aug. 7, 2003
Western Kentucky University's grant funds awarded for special projects at the school have grown by nearly \$20 million over the last six years, according to a report that will be presented at the Board of Regents meeting Friday.

In 1996, the school received \$11.5 million in grant funds from various sources, but last year, that number ballooned to nearly \$30 million, said Phil Myers, Western's director of special projects, who will present the report.

"The university over the last few years has really been dedicated to reinventing itself, and the grants that we've gotten demonstrate that commitment," Myers said. "We have seen more emphasis on grant-writing on an institutional level, and it's really paid off."

Among the grants received by the college last year are a \$3.9 million grant from the Educational

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Professional Standards Board and a \$2 million grant to help train foreign journalists at WKU's School of Journalism and Broadcasting, he said.

"Those are just a couple of the grants that we've gotten," Myers said. "There are a lot of others."

Last year, the school applied for \$70 million in grant funds, a marked increase from previous years, he said.

"We want to be a real, cutting-edge research university, and for that we need this kind of funding," Myers said. "The fact that our awards have grown so much shows how our faculty understands that and is working toward that goal."

The board will also hear a preliminary report from the college's Greek Life Task Force via Gene Tice, Western's vice president for Student Affairs and Campus Services, along with the final report from the Campus Safety Task Force that was released late last month.

Both task forces were formed in the wake of the death of Western student Katie Autry, who died a few days after being raped, beaten and set on fire in her dorm room in Hugh Poland Hall on May 4.

The Campus Safety Task Force's report included 18 recommendations for improving safety

on campus, including installing digital surveillance and recording equipment in dormitories, restricting freshmen to single-sex resident halls and developing a procedure to allow students to submit complaints about their residence hall.

Western President Gary Ransdell said the university is working on implementing the suggestions as quickly as it can.

"Some of them will be in place next week when school starts again, and the rest will be done as soon as we can get them implemented," Ransdell said. "There are financial and logistical issues with some of them, so it's going to take a little longer for those."

Also on the agenda for Friday's meeting are:

- Approval of submission of a request to the Council on Postsecondary Education for \$1.2 million in matching funds from the Regional University Excellence Trust Fund.

- A report on tuition projections for the Fall 2004 semester from Western Provost Barbara Burch and Chief Financial Officer Ann Mead.

- A report on the school's self-study on NCAA recertification from Athletics Director Wood Selig and legal counsel Deborah Wilkins.

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Funds secured for various entities

WKU, transpark, primary care center among those that will get federal help

By JIM GAINES
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The Daily News

Western Kentucky University, the Kentucky TriModal Transpark and the Bowling Green-Warren County Primary Care Center will receive large infusions of cash from the federal government.

Kentucky's Republican senators Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning said Thursday that they have gotten a total of \$18 million for those local institutions in an omnibus spending bill President Bush is expected to sign.

McConnell also had included in the bill almost \$10 million for Western projects. The list includes:

- \$1.165 million for the WKU Sci-

ence Center to buy engineering and biology research equipment. He got \$1.2 million for the center in an earlier bill.

- \$500,000 for the Mobile Health Screening Program, on top of \$1.6 million from earlier bills. It gives primary care and health screenings across central Kentucky, serving more than 6,000 so far.

- \$700,000 for Western's Hispanic Resource Center outreach, focusing on health screening, referrals, public health issues, health promotion and disease prevention.

- \$1 million for Western's Spotlight Youth Project: sponsoring service projects and mentoring programs. Builds on Western's Juvenile Delinquency Prevention project, for which McConnell got an earlier \$1.5 million.

- \$2.65 million for Western's Waste Management Research, continuing joint project with Agricultural Research Service on animal waste

management. That's on top of \$4 million in earlier funds.

- \$1.4 million for Western's water research. Western partners with Natural Resources Conservation Service, researching small public water systems. McConnell said he also got \$1 million from the EPA for Western to continue technical assistance to small water and sewer services in southcentral Kentucky. He worked to secure \$3.45 million for the program previously.

- \$2.5 million for Western's shuttle bus system, to help develop a broader community transport system with Bowling Green.

Western President Gary Ransdell credited McConnell, Bunning and Rep. Ron Lewis, R-Cecilia, and several people from the university who had lobbied legislators for the money.

"We've had a very good year in that respect, and Sen. McConnell really led the charge for us," Rans-

dell said. "But a lot of people contributed, and we're very grateful."

The federal money couldn't have come at a better time since Western is facing \$5.6 million in state budget cuts this fiscal year, he added.

Robbin Taylor, director of governmental relations for Western, said the university has been working for six or seven years to develop relations with McConnell and the other legislators.

"As they have risen in seniority and prominence in Congress, the amount of money that they have been able to secure for Western obviously has increased," said Taylor, who used to be a field representative for McConnell. "But at the same time, we're bringing them the kind of projects that they like to fund."

The projects that receive federal funding for the university tend to be those that have an impact on people throughout the region, she said.

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"We're typically looking for community-service oriented projects that reach out beyond our campus and impact a lot of people," Taylor said. "Our folks have worked very hard to come up with projects and to build relationships with our legislators and their staffs."

This year's appropriation for Western was more than double the \$5 million in federal money that the university had received annually for the past several years, she said.

"We're very excited and it's very rewarding to see the hard work that so many people have done finally come to fruition," Taylor added.

Also in the bill is \$7.25 million for the transpark, now developing a site for its first industrial tenant on the northeast side of Bowling Green.

"I was very pleased," Inter-Modal Transportation Authority President Jim Vance said. "I was not expecting the level of support we received. I couldn't be more appreciative of the senator's support on this project."

A \$5.25 million appropriation will go to build or upgrade roads to the transpark, including U.S. 68-Ky. 80, U.S. 31-W, and a new exit from Interstate 65 to run through the transpark site and connecting to 31-W.

The ITA had expected to pay for upgrades to U.S. 68-Ky. 80 and U.S. 31-W itself, and had committed to do so before the City-County Planning Commission of Warren County, Vance said.

"Most definitely, this helps us considerably," he said.

Another \$2 million will come in for water and sewer service to transpark parcels.

"That's for the water tower and

sewer upgrades," Vance said. "It's in the transpark, but it actually benefits the entire area."

Warren County Judge-Executive Mike Buchanon was pleased with the announcement but not surprised. He and others from the county have spent considerable time in Washington and elsewhere talking up the project with congressmen.

Plans for the transpark's first tenant, Cosma, are expected to be detailed Feb. 5 at the City-County Planning Commission of Warren County.

Also on Thursday, Bunning announced \$4 million for health and education projects in Kentucky, of which \$800,000 will come to Bowling Green.

Western will get half of the money for its nursing faculty accelerated development program. The rest will go to the Bowling Green-Warren County Primary Care Center to help build a new primary care facility. The public medical service has outgrown its current location in the basement of the Barren River District Health Department.

The primary care center will be constructed on land on Lehman Avenue across from the Bowling Green Fire Department. Earlier, the center received a \$180,000 grant from the Department for Health and Human Services toward construction of the \$3 million facility.

"These funds will go a long way in helping Kentuckians with their health and educational needs and I am pleased to have supported this bill today," Bunning said. "Many projects in the Labor-HHS bill will help those Kentuckians in rural areas with their health care and create educational programs that will benefit everybody in the commonwealth."

McConnell nails down funds for Western

By COURTNEY CRAIG
The Daily News

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has received approval from the Senate Appropriations Committee to fund several entities in Kentucky, including two that would benefit Western Kentucky University.

McConnell's requests must be passed by the full Senate and signed by President Bush before they can take effect.

One request was \$500,000 for the Western Kentucky University Small Public Water Technology Center, which provides assistance and training to public water systems across the region. According to Robbin Taylor, WKU's governmental relations assistant to the president, this project has received about \$500,000 from federal sources every year since it began in 1998.

McConnell also proposed \$225,000 for the Western Kentucky University/Mammoth Cave National Park International Center for Science and Learning. According to Taylor, the center was dedicated by Western last August, but has been in operation longer than that. Located at the park's Maple Spring complex, the center is an old house where students, scientists and researchers can work together for long periods of time to study the park and its natural resources.

The center is a partnership between Mammoth Cave National Park and the university. Taylor said it received \$225,000 last year in federal funding. If this year's request goes through, it will be the second year it will have received federal money.

"It's a neat thing to be able to offer to our students and researchers," Taylor said.

\$3.25 million tagged for WKU

By JIM GAINES
The Daily News

Three and a quarter million dollars are earmarked for Western Kentucky University in a federal spending bill by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., his office announced Wednesday.

It's part of more than \$8 million for Kentucky universities in the Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations Conference Report.

McConnell included the rest for projects at the University of Kentucky in Lexington and the University of Louisville and law enforcement in two Kentucky counties.

If President Bush signs the bill as expected, Western will get \$1.75 million for its Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Project, which seeks to establish comprehensive programs in southcentral Kentucky as alternatives to suspension, provide after-school programs in Warren County Public Schools, and coordinate services for at-risk youth and their families, McConnell's office announced. He previously secured \$1.5 million for the project.

Another \$1.5 million is slated to develop an Environmental Monitoring Network at Western, to be administered by the

National Weather Service.

"This money is going to enable us to begin developing a statewide network of weather monitoring stations," said Stuart Foster, state climatologist and an associate professor in the geography and geology department at Western. "It will allow us to collect data in real time. That data will be available to weather forecasters, emergency managers and others that need to be able to respond to changing conditions."

"Our long-term goal is to build a network across Kentucky that would consist of somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 stations or more. We do not have — and most states do not have — a comprehensive weather monitoring network around the state. Generally, it would be just a few stations, at best, that would provide data in real time."

The Kentucky Climate Center at Western will collect and analyze the data, which will probably come in at five-minute intervals, and include much more than most current weather stations collect.

The system will check not only air temperature and precipitation, but will monitor wind direction and speed, humidity, solar radiation, soil temperature and moisture and other factors, Foster said.

That information will be available to the public over the Internet, he said.

McConnell's office said the data will be useful for crop and livestock management, drought monitoring, flood warnings, disaster assessment, water supply management and wildfire risk assessment.

"After several years, we will have developed an extensive database that will be able to support basic and applied research by scientists who might come from around the country or around the world," Foster said.

It will also aid science education in Kentucky, he said.

"We can take current weather conditions into the classroom, so teachers can use that information to help develop learning opportunities that kids can relate to," Foster said.

The appropriation will not build all 100 stations, and once built, the network will need continued funding for operation and maintenance, he said.

"This is a good start," Foster said.

The Edmonson County Sheriff's Department will get \$200,000.

The sheriff's department wants to buy mobile radios and computers for crime analysis, and fund anti-methamphetamine efforts, McConnell's office said.

WKU to work for better data security

\$1.3 million grant included in federal appropriations

By **ROBYN L. MINOR**
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University professors plan to partner with a local Homeland Security-related firm to test what happens when hackers try to gain access to national security information.

Western is slated to receive \$1.3 million for a National Network Security Test Bed in a defense appropriations bill approved Tuesday by a House-Senate conference committee. The measure is expected to get final approval this week.

"We had asked for \$2 million for the project," said Bruce Kessler, assistant dean of Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

With a lot of details still to be worked out, Kessler said he's not sure if the project will have to be scaled back. Kessler will be working on the project in his capacity as an associate math professor. Western is working with Electronic Warfare Associates, which operates a business in Western's Center for Research and Economic Development, the University of Arizona and possibly the University of Mississippi.

Kessler said the plans are to link personal computers and then launch an attack into the system that will contain no real "secret" information. The goal is to see what it looks like when attacks are being carried out, so that computer networks can recognize when they are under

attack. Then the group will try to design systems to prevent hackers from getting any actual useful information.

Because of the speed with which hackers work, it's very difficult to keep them out of systems, but there may be a way to prevent them from gathering information, he said.

Kessler said he's not sure when the project will begin. A lot depends on when the money is actually released and then participants would have to get security clearances, which might take a couple of months.

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's office said the funds are part of more than \$59 million in the bill the Kentucky Republican has secured for defense-related projects in the state.

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Foundation giving grant to Western

The ENVIRON Foundation announced this week that it will make a two-year, \$100,000 grant to Western Kentucky University for a project that will provide training to scientists and government officials in methods to improve water resources in the limestone karst regions of southwest China's Yunnan province.

WKU's China Environmental Health Project works to improve public health in China through university partnerships, focusing on water resources in southwest China's extensive limestone karst regions and impacts of coal combustion on air quality. With major support from the U.S. Agency for International Development made possible with the help of U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., a key goal of CEHP is to involve WKU and Chinese students in the process, to make the work sustainable by increasing the Chinese academic infrastructure to continue the work into the future. Other partners include the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction.

The ENVIRON Foundation grant will enable CEHP to expand its existing training programs by working with scientists and students at Southwest University of China (SWUC) to conduct training in karst hydrogeology for local and provincial level officials in Yunnan Province, where

WKU-SWUC teams have been conducting fieldwork near China's border with Vietnam.

WKU to get \$1.6M more for cybersecurity efforts

By ROBYN L. MINOR

The Daily News

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Western Kentucky University will be getting an additional \$1.6 million to develop ways to defend national security information systems against cyberattacks.

This is in addition to the \$1.3 million the university received in 2006 to get the program up and running, according to Bruce Kessler, assistant dean of WKU's Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

The latest funding was contained in the Defense Appropriations Bill signed into law this week by President Bush

"I think the general public is aware that cybersecurity is a big thing ... because many people have gotten attacked at home or seen that spyware has been installed after visiting certain sites. It's not like it used to be, where it felt free and easy."

Nov. 17, 2007

Phil Womble

Director, WKU cyberdefense lab

and part of \$80 million in projects that U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., secured for the state.

Western, in the first phase of the project, is working with Homeland Security-related firm, Electronic Warfare Associates, which operates in Western's Center for Research and Economic Development, the University of Ar-

izona, the University of Mississippi and the Army Research Lab.

"So far we've defined what we are trying to do with all the different groups on the project," said Kessler. "We are working at Western setting up the test-bed which involved acquiring the computers and getting them set up so we can simulate network traffic."

Phil Womble, who is director of the cyberdefense lab, said 30 computers have been installed and networked. They are in a 1,200-square-foot lab at the Innovation and Commercialization Center, thanks to a grant of \$269,000 from EWA.

Womble described the project as one

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Experts will analyze attacks, develop defense

being conducted in a sandbox with various levels of security.

"Just like when people are doing a biological science study of a virus ... we've done what they do and make sure the virus doesn't escape," he said.

So the 30 computers will be used to defend from or launch attacks on one another. The lab is still waiting on some software but should be in full swing in January, and Womble said some analysis has already begun.

"I'm more of an analyst in the project," Kessler said. "I'll be looking at data generated (by the computer attacks) to determine if I can pick up on any patterns ... and how we can protect against them."

Kessler said he is already looking at some work done on a small computer testbed in Arizona and making suggestions about improving the technology being used.

He plans to do more of that work on the Christmas break.

While outside usual assistant dean duties, Kessler said the work keeps his attention.

"This is really interesting stuff to me, so I've tried to stay up with it. ... I guess I'm a glutton for punishment."

Womble said the work should also interest the general public.

"I think the general public is aware that cybersecurity is a big thing ... because many people have gotten attacked at home or seen that spyware has been installed after visiting certain sites," Womble said. "It's not like it used to be, where it felt free and easy. ... People are pretty cognizant of cybersecurity."

While the current work is for the federal government, Womble said it's his vision that private software companies will come to the cyberdefense lab for help in protecting their products.

"It can be a resource to stimulate economic growth in the region," he said.

For now, Womble said there is quite a cadre of people working on the project, though he's unsure which partners will take part under the additional funding.

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